



The Harpy Eagle



Genus: Harpia

Species: Harpia harpyja

Causes of Endangerment

- The harpy eagle is threatened primarily by habitat loss provoked by the expansion of logging, cattle ranching, agriculture and prospecting.
- Secondly the harpy is being hunted because it is being seen as a threat to livestock and even to humans, since it is so large.
- The harpy eagle is widely spread across South America and is considered more endangered in some areas as opposed to others, where it is more often hunted.



Harpy Eagle Video



Conservation

- The harpy eagle depends on a dedicated effort for captive breeding and release to the wild as well as habitat protection in order to prevent it from reaching endangered status.
- Since 2002, Peregrine Fund initiated a conservation and research program for the Harpy Eagle in the Darién Province, Panama.
- Many other groups are helping out in conservation efforts to restore numbers to such an amazing bird.



Implications

- Although it will be a sad day for wildlife if the harpy eagle disappears, and the loss of an amazing animal, overall there would be little effect. One adverse event that might be seen is a rise in small game numbers in the area of southern Mexico, and northern South America.



Interesting Facts

- The Harpy Eagle is the national bird of Panama and is depicted on the coat of arms of Panama.
- The Harpy Eagle was the inspiration behind the design of Fawkes the Phoenix in the Harry Potter film series.
- The Harpy Eagle is featured on the cover of the O'Reilly Media book, R in a Nutshell.
- Its name refers to the Harpies of Ancient Greek mythology. These were wind spirits that took the dead to Hades, and were said to have a body like an eagle and the face of a human.

Harpia harpyja

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An Amazing Predator